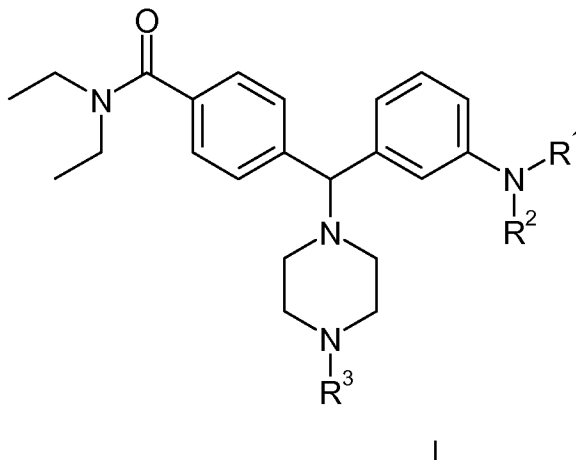


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

R¹ is selected from C₃₋₆alkyl, C₆₋₁₀aryl, C₂₋₉heteroaryl, C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₉heteroaryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, R⁸-C(=O)-, R⁸-S(=O)₂-, R⁸-S(=O)-, R⁸-NHC(=O)-, R⁸-C(=S)- and R⁸-NH-C(=S)-, wherein R⁸ is selected from C₃₋₆alkyl, C₆₋₁₀aryl, C₂₋₉heteroaryl, C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₉heteroaryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₃₋₆alkyl, C₆₋₁₀aryl, C₂₋₉heteroaryl, C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₉heteroaryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, and C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl ~~C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl~~ used in defining R¹ and R⁸ are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, selected from -H, C₁₋₆alkyl and phenyl;

R² is selected from -H and C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from ~~halogen~~, -CF₃, -OH, C₁₋₃alkoxy, and halogen; and

R³ is selected from -H, C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆alkoxy and halogen.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is selected from C₃₋₆alkyl, C₆₋₁₀aryl, C₂₋₆heteroaryl, C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₆heteroaryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₃₋₆alkyl, C₆₋₁₀aryl, C₂₋₆heteroaryl, C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₆heteroaryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, ~~halogen~~, -CF₃, -OH, C₁₋₃alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R² is selected from -H and C₁₋₃alkyl; and

R³ is selected from -H and C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 2,

wherein R¹ is R⁹-CH₂-, wherein R⁹ is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, ~~halogen~~, -CF₃, -OH, C₁₋₃alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen; and

R² and R³ are hydrogen.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 3,

wherein R⁹ is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, ~~halogen~~, -CF₃, -OH, C₁₋₃alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 4, wherein

~~wherein~~ R⁹ is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl.

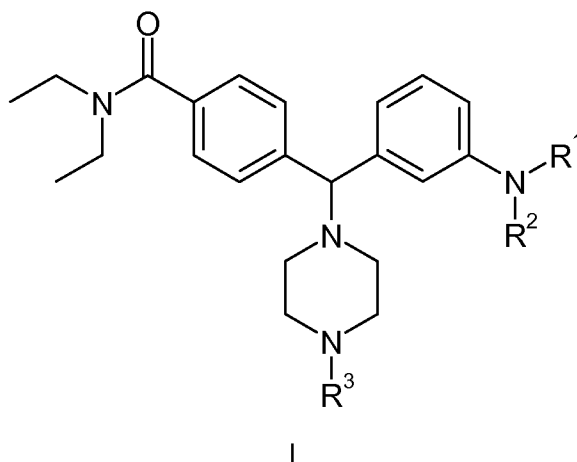
6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is selected from C₃₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₃₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, ~~halogen~~, -CF₃, -OH, C₁₋₃alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R² is -H or C₁₋₃alkyl; and

R³ is -H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, halogen, -CF₃, -OH, C₁₋₃alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

R^1 is selected from 1-propyl, 2-propyl, 1-butyl, 2-butyl, t-butyl, 2-methyl-1-propyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, and cyclononyl;

R^2 is selected from -H, methyl, ethyl, 1-propyl and 2-propyl; and

R^3 is selected from -H, methyl, ethyl, allyl, 3,3-dimethyl-allyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 2-methoxy-ethyl, and 3-methoxy-1-propyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is selected from $R^8-C(=O)-$, $R^8-S(=O)_2-$, $R^8-S(=O)-$, $R^8-NHC(=O)-$, $R^8-C(=S)-$ and $R^8-NH-C(=S)-$, wherein R^8 is selected from C_{3-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, $-CF_3$, $-OH$, C_{1-3} alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R^2 is -H; and

R^3 is selected from -H and C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C(=O)-.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein

R^8 is selected from phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl, wherein said phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methyl, methoxy and halogen.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;
4-[(S)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[[4-trifluoromethyl]benzyl]amino}phenyl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclopentylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohex-1-en-1-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-[3-(cyclopentylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-[3-(cyclononylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-(benzoylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(S)-{3-(benzoylamino)phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-methyl-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-fluorophenyl)acetyl]amino}phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(benzylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilino)carbonyl]amino}phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilino)carbonothioyl]amino}phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
4-[(S)-{3-(dipropylamino)phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-(dipropylamino)phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-[[4-(3-pyridinyl)phenyl]methyl]amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[[4-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]methyl]amino}phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-[(2-quinolinylmethyl)amino]phenyl]-methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(2,2-diphenylethyl)amino]phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[[4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]amino}phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[[4-(4-phenoxyphenyl)methyl]amino]phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[4-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(3-methoxypropyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-{3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
4-[(*R*)-[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-{(*S*)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl][4-(cyclopropylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-ethylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-{(*S*)-(4-allylpiperazin-1-yl)[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl]methyl}-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*S*)-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*S*)-{3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*S*)-{3-[cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*R*)-{3-[cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
enantiomers thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

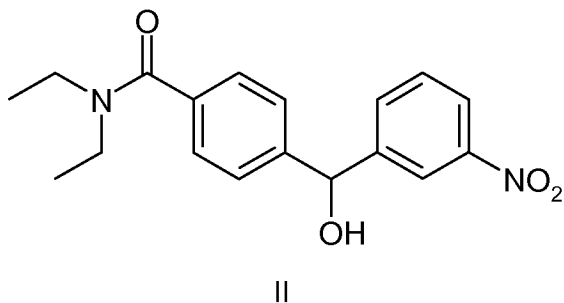
11-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

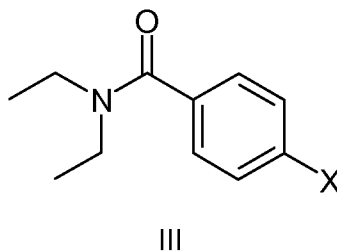
Claim 14. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

Claims 15 -16. (cancelled)

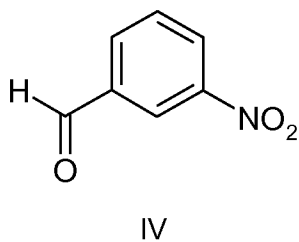
Claim 17. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula II, comprising:



a) reacting a compound of formula III:

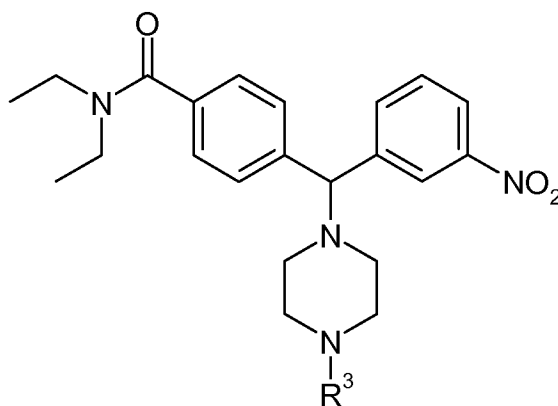


with a compound of formula IV



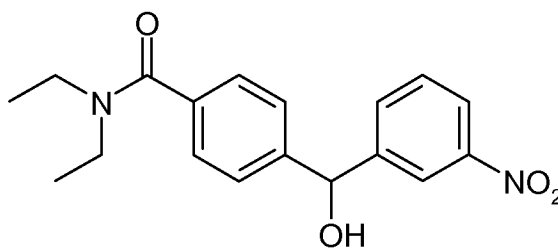
in the presence of a base having a pKa of more than 15
wherein X is a halogen.

Claim 18. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula VI:



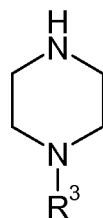
VI,

comprising: reacting a compound of formula II



II

with a compound of formula VII



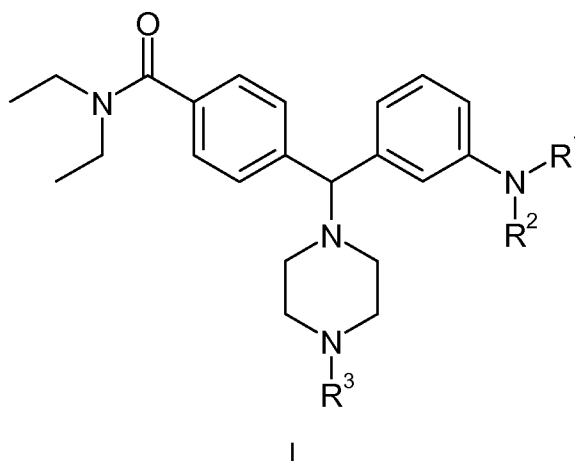
VII

in the presence of SOX₂ to form the compound of formula VI, wherein

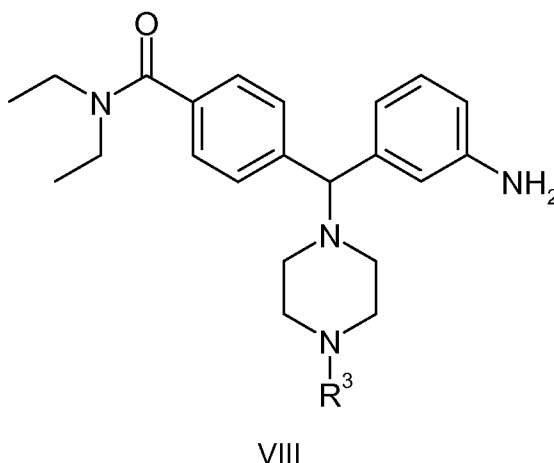
R³ is selected from -H, C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆alkoxy and halogen; and

X is halogen.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I,



comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



with R^9 -CHO in the presence of a reducing agent to form the compound of formula I:

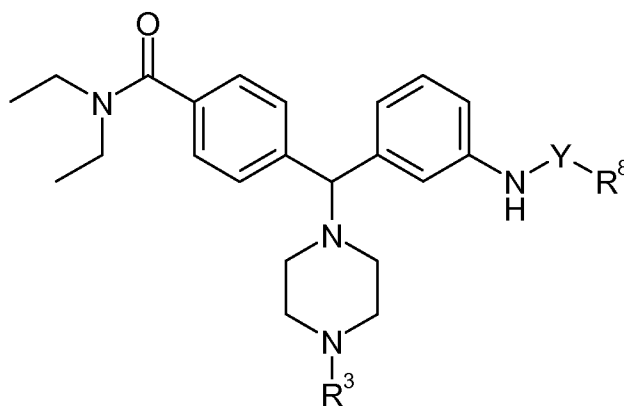
wherein

R^1 is R^9 -CH₂-, wherein R^9 is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, ~~halogen~~, -CF₃, -OH, C₁₋₃alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen;

R^2 is -H; and

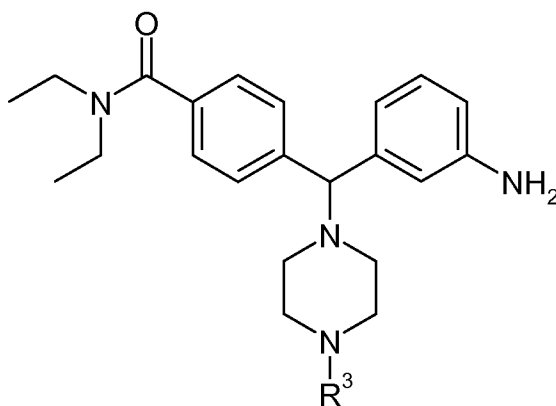
R^3 is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆alkoxy and halogen.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,



IX

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R^8 -Y-X or R^8 -Y-O-Y- R^8 to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

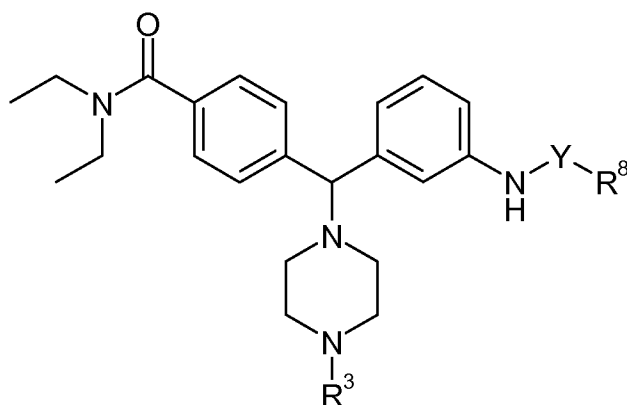
X is halogen;

Y is selected from $-C(=O)-$ and $-S(=O)_2-$;

R^8 is selected from C_{3-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl, ~~halogen~~, $-CF_3$, $-OH$, C_{1-3} alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

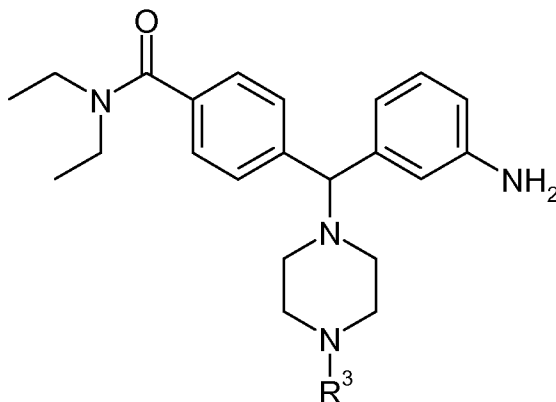
R^3 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy and halogen.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,



IX

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R^8-Z to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

Z is selected from -NCO and -NCS;

Y is selected from -C(=O)NH- and -C(=S)NH-;

R^8 is selected from C_{3-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl- C_{2-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, - CF_3 , -OH, C_{1-3} alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, - NO_2 , - CF_3 , C_{1-6} alkoxy and halogen.